



Woodfin Journal

A publication of the
Town of Woodfin

Spring 2013



From Your Mayor...

Welcome to my favorite time of the year when trees and plants begin to bloom, the weather warms up and gardening begins, whether with flowers or vegetables or both.

It is also the time of year when we begin to spruce up our properties and make them look good for the remainder of the year. In line with this, we have our annual clean up week where our Public Works Department will remove items they normally do not remove. Basically, all you have to do is get the items to the end of your driveway or to the curb. Please try to take advantage of this program this year.

You may also notice some things happening with properties which are abandoned, have fallen in, or are otherwise eyesores or hazards to your neighborhood. We are once again beginning a rather active code enforcement project to get these structures torn down or repaired. We will also be looking at junk vehicles or other violations of our ordinances.

We are well into our upcoming budget process and will have more on this later. As you know, the Town of Woodfin had a significant decrease in property values overall and this could affect our budget for the upcoming year. As always, we make every attempt to provide the most service possible with our revenues and will continue to do so.

As always, I am available to hear your concerns and needs and you should feel free to contact me at any time—day or night. I will always return your calls.

Enjoy our spring months and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

Jerry Vettaan

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Important Phone Numbers

Emergency 9-1-1

- Woodfin Police 253-4889
- Woodfin Town Hall 253-4887
- Woodfin Public Works 645-7063
- Curbside Management—252-2532
- Woodfin Fire District 255-7561
- Woodfin Water District 253-5551
- Woodfin Community Center 253-4888.
- Woodfin ABC 658-9300

As a Reminder...if you own poultry of any kind you are responsible for registering them with the Town and ensuring that they are kept on your property in accordance with municipal ordinance. Registration is free, but failure to comply with local ordinances can lead to fines and penalties. Plus, it's just common courtesy to keep your poultry on your property.



Rent the Community Center

Looking for a great place to host your next big event? Then look no farther, the Woodfin Community Center can accommodate more than 200 of your closest friends, it comes complete with chairs, tables, a stage and a full kitchen and you can rent the building for 24 hours for only \$200 plus a \$100 refundable* security deposit. Make your reservations today by calling 253-4887.

**security deposit refund is contingent upon condition of building after use.*

Shopping Local Helps Us All

In recent months the Town has seen several new businesses open their doors to serve the people of Woodfin. As a community it's important that we make the extra effort to keep our local businesses alive and well. Why?

First of all local businesses mean local jobs. When we shop local we're helping our friends and neighbors.

Secondly, local businesses give back directly to our community. Besides the taxes that they pay, our local businesses con-



sistently donate to programs like our annual toy and home heating drive as well as other direct assistance programs through the Town and other area agencies throughout the year. Supporting them means supporting these programs.

Finally, supporting local businesses demonstrates to

other companies that this is a community worth investing in. New stores, restaurants, and manufacturers look to the health of other local businesses when making their investment decisions. If they see a vibrant business community they are more apt to put their dollars to work right here in our community.

So if you want to see a more diverse and dynamic offering of commercial opportunities in Woodfin, try taking your shopping to one of our local retailers the next time you get the chance.

It really does mean a lot!

Responsible Pet Ownership

Owning a pet can be one of the great joys of life but like any relationship it's not without its share of burdens.

Aside from making sure that your companion animals have access to clean drinking water, good food and adequate shelter during hot, cold or wet weather, pet owners have a responsibility to their neighbors and their community as a whole.

For example, cleaning up after your pets. All animals produce waste, as the pet owner you are required to clean up that waste and make sure that your animal is not depositing waste on public or private property unless you are clean-



ing it up. Even on your own property allowing animal waste to accumulate creates a burden on your neighbors, and a health and safety hazard for everyone. It is legally required that you regularly clean up after your pets.

Please also consider taking the step of having your pet spayed or neutered, the overpopulation of cats and dogs in Buncombe County continues to mean that a great number of animals are euthanized each year. Not

only is this a tragic outcome, but it's also a direct and unnecessary expense to taxpayers.

Another important issue worth addressing is making sure that you are aware that allowing your dog or cat to roam free is a dangerous and potentially illegal practice. As the owner of a pet you are responsible for their actions. Allowing dogs to bark continuously or cats to use the neighbors property as a litter box or scratching post can result in fines and penalties.

Lastly, please remember that only leashed pets are permitted at Woodfin River Park. Owners of unleashed animals will be fined. Pets are not permitted at any other municipal park.



Coexisting with Coyotes – An Increasingly Close Neighbor

Coyotes are a relative new comer to the mountains of North Carolina, only beginning to appear in the 1980s due to the absence of other predators like wolves and a remarkable ability to adapt to changing conditions.

Since their arrival, coyotes have increasingly come into conflict with human beings due to their ability to survive and thrive in urban and suburban environments and the increasing development of wilderness areas as residential developments. During the last few years Woodfin has experienced an increasing number of calls and complaints related to coyotes. To help citizens better understand these animals and how to minimize their negative impact on citizens we have prepared the following information.

What do coyotes look like? Coyotes look like medium sized dogs and typically weigh between 20-45 pounds. Their fur varies in color between dark gray and reddish brown. Pointy ears, bushy tails and long snouts are all common hallmarks of coyotes.

Do coyotes attack humans? While not unprecedented, coyote attacks on humans are very, very rare. Feeding coyotes whether on purpose or incidentally (for example leaving cat or dog food



outside or not properly securing garbage) helps to reduce a coyote's natural fear of humans and may lead them to associate humans with food. Such an association may increase the likelihood of a human coyote interaction that is potentially dangerous. While the danger to human beings from coyotes is extremely remote all of us are better off if we take steps to avoid making humans look like potential sources of food.

Do coyotes carry rabies? While not unheard of, coyotes are not typical carriers of rabies.

Are my pets safe around coyotes? Maybe or maybe not is the best answer. Larger dogs are viewed as potential threats to their pups or their territory by coyotes. Attacks by coyotes on larger dogs are more likely to take place between January and June. Smaller dogs and cats in particular are viewed as potential prey items by coyotes and are at particular risk. If you need another justification for making sure that your cats and dogs are indoor pets and not roaming at large,

then threat of their being eaten should be one worth considering.

How do I respond if I see a coyote? In most cases the coyote will know you are around long before you are aware of its presence. In the event that you do see a coyote no special precautions are necessary. If you see coyotes in your neighborhood frequently, however, then you and your neighbors should take collective steps to discourage their presence.

Here are some concrete steps you can take to reduce the presence of coyotes in your area:

The most important and easiest is to properly secure your garbage. Buy a garbage can with a tightly fitted lid. Many models are available that are branded or designed to be "critter proof" this discourages not only coyotes, but also bears, raccoons, opossums, cats, dogs, birds and other animals from turning your household waste into a buffet. It is also required by municipal ordinance that

you have a garbage can, with a secure lid and handles.

As much as they look like dogs, coyotes are wild creatures. Under no circumstances should you feed or attempt to pet or tame these animals. Once coyotes become familiar with humans they can become more aggressive leading to bad outcomes for both the human and animal.

Don't feed your animals outdoors. If this is unavoidable, make sure that you remove excess food once your pet has eaten. Also, make sure your pets don't become dinner for coyotes by keeping them indoors or within securely fenced areas.

Coyotes are omnivores and will adapt to whatever food sources are available. If you have fruit trees, do not allow fallen fruit to accumulate in large amounts.

Make sure that you regularly clean off areas surrounding bird feeders. Bird feeders often attract small mammals (like mice and squirrels) who eat the left over seed that has fallen to the ground. Coyotes may identify such areas as potential feeding grounds. Sweeping up or raking out these areas regularly will reduce the chance that your bird feeder becomes a coyote "hot spot."

If you need more information contact the NC Wildlife Resources Commission at 919.707.0040 or at www.ncwildlife.org.





Town of Woodfin

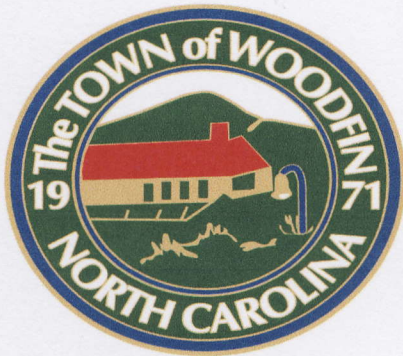
Woodfin Town Hall
90 Elk Mountain Road
Woodfin, NC 28804

Phone: 828.243.4887

Fax: 828.253.4700

Email: jasonyoung@woodfin-nc.gov

"Where Community Matters!"



Public Meetings

Every month the Town's Board of Aldermen meet to discuss the business of the Town. At every single one of these meetings citizens are invited and encouraged to attend. Meetings are typically held on the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM at the Woodfin Town Hall. If you have an idea for a way you'd like to see the Town improved or just want to find out more about what's going on in your community then these public meetings are a perfect opportunity to get involved. Other public meetings of potential interest include Planning & Zoning Board meetings which cover a variety of issues ranging from approving subdivisions and conditional uses to proposing changes to the ordinances of the Town. Below you'll find a brief schedule of some of the upcoming meetings:

Aldermen

- May 21
- June 18
- July 16

Planning & Zoning

- May 6
- June 3
- July 8



What's Happening Around Town... "Making things Cleaner & Safer"

Here's a quick round up of some of our recent projects that might have escaped your attention...

First of all, the Elk Mountain sidewalk project is substantially complete. This is the first sidewalk ever constructed by the Town of Woodfin and allows pedestrians to walk safely from Riverside Drive past Town Hall. The project has a few finishing touches to be completed, but it serves as the first major spoke in what is planned to be a new, walkable Woodfin. The Town utilized two major grants to fund the construction of this project with the remaining funds coming from gas tax revenue that is restricted to transportation use. Not only will this project allow more students to walk to school safely, it will eventually

serve as part of a system of sidewalks and greenways that will allow citizens to move around town without having to get behind the wheel creating a healthier and greener Woodfin for tomorrow.

Construction is set to begin soon on signalization improvements at the intersection of Weaverville Road/ North Woodfin Avenue/ Sen. Reynolds Blvd. You can presently see the stakes marking the way for widening and we anticipate this project will be complete by early summer at the latest. It will feature a four way stop light that will improve traffic flow and enhance safety.

Improvements to the Metropolitan Sewerage District's (MSD)'s incinerator are scheduled for implementation over the next couple of years. These incinera-

tor improvements will enhance the public health by reducing the amount of chemicals released during the incineration of waste materials at MSD.

The Town is presently working with the State of North Carolina to facilitate the removal of an estimated 25,000 tires from the crusher yard site adjacent to Craggy Bridge along Riverside Drive. This removal effort will be funded by a state fund and overseen by the Town of Woodfin.

The Town has also begun preliminary design work on the property recently donated by Silverline Plastics for the creation of a public park. More info soon...



The Town estimates that more than 25,000 junked motor vehicle tires will be removed from the site over the next few months...